

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

JANUARY 19, 2007

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on January 11, 2007, **FONTE ANTHONY**, age 33, of Carbondale, Illinois, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, in a one-count indictment charging him with distribution of crack cocaine. The violation took place on October 5, 2006, in Carbondale. An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The offense carries a penalty of up to 30 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$2,000,000, and a term of 6 years' supervised release. **ANTHONY** is currently being held without bond.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, United States Marshal's Service, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to those agencies' participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. The Williamson County Sheriff's Office also participated in the investigation. The goal of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is to remove illegal guns and drugs from our communities. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time.

The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.